

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JUNE 18, 2013

**Proclaim World Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2013**

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), also known as Sickle Cell Anemia, affects millions of people throughout the world. SCD is a congenital disorder characterized by an insufficient supply of red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen throughout the body.

According to the National Institutes of Health, SCD is particularly common among those whose ancestors come from sub-Saharan Africa, South or Central America, Caribbean Islands, certain Mediterranean regions, India and Saudi Arabia.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that in the United States, SCD affects 90,000 to 100,000 people and the life expectancy is 46 years of age for men and 48 years of age for women.

SCD affects one out of every 500 African American births and one out of every 36,000 Hispanic American births. Children with SCD are at least four times as likely as children without it to have fair or poor health status.

Many people diagnosed with SCD need to have a blood transfusion of one or more units, every two-to-four weeks for the rest of their lives. Many of those in need for the transfusion face the challenge of not enough consistent blood donors who match their blood type. Race or genetically matched bone marrow, stem cell and cord blood transplants are potentially curative treatments for SCD. Unfortunately, an inadequate supply of minority or same race donors exists to match those in desperate need of a lifesaving transplant.

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MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

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Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Harbor-UCLA Medical Center developed a clinical trial for a promising new drug treatment that involves the oral administration of L-glutamine, which is the most common amino acid in the body. This is one of the few experimental treatments for SCD to reach the Phase 3 clinical trial stage and now utilized by researchers throughout the U.S. for sickle cell treatment.

SCD affects every race and is growing globally and locally. A simple blood test will indicate if an individual has the disease or carries the trait. It is important to stay educated, engaged and empowered. On December 8, 2008, the United Nations put forth a resolution acknowledging June 19<sup>th</sup> as World Sickle Cell Day, recognizing that sickle cell anemia is a public health problem and that there is a need for more awareness.

The Empowerment Congress of the Second District is engaging community leaders, and stakeholders as well as faith-based groups and elected officials to encourage members of the public to donate blood to provide blood therapy to those suffering from SCD and to join the national bone marrow donor registry.

The Board of Supervisors urges all residents to join the effort to raise awareness of this disease by observing World Sickle Cell Day and will continue to work towards education about, and greater access to, prevention, treatment, care and support services for those impacted by this disease.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Proclaim Wednesday, June 19, 2013 as World Sickle Cell Day throughout Los Angeles County and urge local residents, community stakeholders and County employees to donate blood, register to become a bone marrow donor and support and participate in events planned on this day.

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